CLAIMS

1. An escape mask that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, the mask comprising,

A. a foldable pocket size hood to cover the entire head, comprising:

1. a bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,

2. a multi-layered filter assembly containing at least one filter layer containing an antiseptic effective against microorganisms and at least one filter layer containing activated charcoal, said filter assembly being adhered to the bag over an aperture in the bag in the area where the mouth and nose would be for someone wearing the mask,

3. an exhalation valve embedded in the filter assembly, and

B. separate sealing means, not connected to the bag, to seal the bag around the neck, enabling adjusting the bag over the head to reduce the free space inside the hood and to adjust the exhalation valve against the lips.

2. A mask as in claim 1, wherein the transparent plastic film material is made of a laminate of more than one plastic material.

3. A mask as in claim 2, wherein the transparent plastic film material is a laminate of a gas impermeable polymer film sandwiched between polyethylene film layers.

4. A mask as in claim 3, wherein the gas impermeable polymer film is a polyamide polymer film.

5. A mask as in claims 3 and 4, further including binder film between the polyethylene layers and the polyamide film layer.

6. A mask in claims 1 to 5, wherein the hood is transparent only on the part that will be worn opposite the eyes, mouth and nose.

7. A mask as in claim 1, wherein the separate sealing means is an elastic band.

8. A mask as in claim 7, wherein the band is of a size and strength to achieve a good seal and still avoid chocking the wearer when placing the band around a neck.

9. A mask as in claim 1 to 6 and 8, wherein the separate sealing means are two elastic bands.

10. A mask as in claims 1 to 9 wherein the filter assembly comprises an activated charcoal filter layer sandwiched between two filter layers that are impregnated with an antiseptic that destroys microorganisms.

11. A mask as in claim 10, wherein the antiseptic impregnated filter layers are able to filter out particles greater than 2 microns.

12. A mask as in claims 1 to 11, including a filter layer able to prevent passage therethrough of particles greater than 0.3 microns.

13. A mask as in claims 1 to 12, wherein the exhalation valve is in the center of the filter assembly.

14. A mask as in claims 1 to 13, wherein the filter assembly is heat sealed onto the bag.

15. A mask as in claim 1 to 14, wherein the exhalation valve comprises an elastic diaphragm having a flexible circumferential end, said diaphragm fitted close to the base of a frame, allowing exhaling air to lift its circumferential end to let the exhaled air pass, and return the circumferential end to its original position when exhaled air ceases to flow, preventing outside air from passing through the valve.

16. A mask as in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the mask is folded to the size of a folded handkerchief when not in use.

17. A mask as in claim 1, that can be turned inside out forming a bag after removal from the head, so that the contaminated outside surface will now face inwards.

18. A mask as in any of the previous claims wherein the antiseptic material is selected from clorhexidine salt and cetylpyridinium chloride.